GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2600
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
PROACTIVE MEASURES FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
Fanthome Shri Francis

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce proactive measures in connection with disaster management;

(b) if so, the areas that these proactive measures are likely to cover; and

(c) the time by when these measures are likely to be put in place?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SMT. V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (c): Government has brought a paradigm shift in approach to Disaster Management from relief-centric to a holistic, integrated approach involving diverse scientific, engineering, social and financial processes, covering the different phases of disaster management cycle encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation.

In line with the change in orientation, the following proactive measures have been put in place:

(i) The Disaster Management Act (DM Act), 2005 has been enacted to facilitate effective steps for the mitigation of disasters, prepare for and coordinate emergency response to disasters and other related matters.

(ii) Under the provisions of the DM Act, 2005, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been established under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. NDMA is responsible for formulating policies, plans and guidelines on disaster management. The Act, provides for constitution of Disaster Management Authorities at State and District level also.

(iii) Model building bye-laws, town and country planning legislation, zoning and development control regulations to ensure hazard resistant construction have been formulated by different Expert Committees and shared with the State Governments.

(iv) National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has been established under the provisions of the DM Act, 2005, to undertake training and capacity building.

(v) Disaster Management has been introduced in the school curricula through the Central Board of Secondary Education and respective School Board of Education of different States have been advised to adopt the curricula.

(vi) A Community based Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP) is under implementation in 169 multi-hazard prone districts of the country. This programme aims at constitution and sensitization of Disaster Management Committees and establishment and training of Disaster Management Teams (DMTs) at various levels for effective search and rescue, first-aid, relief coordination etc.

(vii) A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been set up to provide specialized response.

(viii) The concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government have drawn up Emergency Support Function Plans.

(ix) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dealing with aftermath of a nuclear attack, for responding to terrorist attack using chemical weapons/radioactive material / biological agents have been formulated.

(x) A Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) has been established to forewarn about the occurrence of tsunamis and storm surges in the Indian Ocean.